

him place the public good before anything else when a decision had to be made. During an age of cynicism about those in public life, this alone is truly remarkable.

This has been a heartbreaking moment for all of us in Northwest Indiana, as Larry served Porter County very ably as a public official for 17 years. He was a fine public servant, a man who sincerely cared about his constituents, his fellow citizens and his civic responsibilities. Larry retired in 1999 after 34 years as a steel worker at Bethlehem Steel's Burns Harbor Plant and in 1982 won his first election as a Porter County Commissioner.

In the early 1980s, while working for the late Congressman Adam Benjamin, Jr., I had the privilege of first meeting Larry Sheets. Later, during my first bid for Congress in 1983, Larry was the first and one of only a few public officials to endorse me. At the time I was "nobody." Larry made me "somebody." Our friendship was extended to a shared passion. Along with my father, Larry, Bill Wallace and I would spend many fall Saturdays together in South Bend, Indiana, watching the Fighting Irish play football.

Although his work with the community put extraordinary demands on his time, Larry never limited the time he gave to his most important interest, his family. He and his gracious wife, Paula, have two terrific children: Amber and Larry Jr.

Mr. Speaker and my other distinguished colleagues, Larry Sheets was a wonderful man. We are going to miss him in Northwest Indiana. He represented the epitome of what a dedicated public servant should be, but seldom is, and for that he will always be remembered.

THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On October 1, 1960, Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

Over the last decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Both countries gained their independence from Great Britain, and now each country celebrates the anniversary of that independence as their national holiday. More significantly, Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under law.

The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring. The people of Cyprus appreciate the leadership that America has shown in trying to end the division of Cyprus and bring about reunification. At the same time, the people of Cyprus stand with the American people and share in the firm resolve to uphold the ideals of freedom, justice and democracy threatened by the forces of international terrorism.

The government of Cyprus has pledged to cooperate fully with the Bush Administration in the battle against terrorism. Cypriots do not stand indifferent and passive in responding to heinous acts that target our sense of security, our civil liberties and our faith in the democratic process. Having achieved its independence after a bitter fight to uphold freedom and democracy, Cyprus understands that great determination and unity are needed in order to safeguard the treasured ideals we share.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 43rd Independence Day, I share the Cypriot's joy for having created a prosperous, open society based on solid foundations. Furthermore, I believe this is an opportunity for the United States of America and Cyprus to come closer together, as we stand united in our resolve to fight the battle on terrorism. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO ANGELA MARIE DARIA CARPINELLO OF CINCINNATI

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in honor of her 100th birthday, I would like to take a moment to recognize Angela Marie Daria Carpinello of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Angela was born in Cincinnati on September 28, 1903. She was the second of 14 children. She had nine brothers and five sisters. The family was raised in downtown Cincinnati. Angela's father was born in Letino, Italy and worked for the City of Cincinnati until he was accepted as a US Citizen at which point he began to work for the local phone company.

Angela met her husband, Nicola Carpinello in Cincinnati. Nicola worked at the Courthouse. Nick served in World War One and received a Silver Star and Purple Heart for his service to his country.

Nick and Angela purchased a home in Price Hill, a neighborhood of Cincinnati. While Nick worked at the Courthouse, Angela was busy raising her family. She loved to cook, clean, and care for her family and others around her.

Angela and "Nick" were married for 52 years. They have three children—Anthony, Malvina, and Evelyn. From these three children come the pride of Angela's life—her 24 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and seven great great grandchildren. To her family Angela is known as "Minnie". And, thankfully, Minnie is able to remember everyone's birthday, anniversary, and other special occasion. She has been truly blessed.

Angela often shares stories from her youth with her family. Her favorite stories include memories of the Great Flood of 1937, shopping at Shillito's with her oldest grandsons, going to God's Bible School with her siblings for Thanksgiving during the lean years, and her trip to Rhode Island to meet her husband's sister.

Angela had a few weaknesses in her life—stopping at bakeries, jewelry stores, and shopping at Gidding Jenny's. She was always well-dressed, treating herself to one new outfit per year. Angela made sure that she and Nick were always in style.

In Angela's 100 years, so much has happened, cars, buses, planes, mass communication, computers, the internet, fast food and she has taken advantage of them all. During the course of her life, Angela has traveled to Rhode Island and Florida.

Thank you, Angela, for your contributions over the past 100 years. From the United States House of Representatives, we would like to wish you a very happy 100th birthday and may God Bless you with many more.

ADMINISTRATION'S AMTRAK REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I join Chairman YOUNG in introducing, by request, the Administration's Amtrak "reform" legislation. It is a common practice for the Chairman and Ranking Member of a Committee to jointly introduce an Administration's bill, regardless of which political party controls the White House or Congress or the specifics of proposed legislation, and I do this as a courtesy to the Administration. However, introducing a bill "by request" should not be interpreted to imply endorsement. In fact, in the current instance, I am vehemently opposed to the direction the Administration has chosen for intercity rail passenger service for our nation.

For nearly two years we have awaited the Administration's legislative proposal for the future direction of Amtrak. Time and again we have heard that the vision would be revealed "any day now." The Administration revealed the outline of its plan last year and now has given us the final product. It wasn't worth the wait.

The Administration's proposal is little more than a rehash of the widely discredited proposals of the Amtrak Reform Council (ARC): separate ownership of the Northeast Corridor infrastructure from operations; allow entities other than Amtrak to compete for franchises to operate service over potentially profitable routes; and replace the current national network with regional systems that shift the costs to the states. These are all ideas promoted by the ARC. The bill would also phase out Federal operating support for all intercity passenger trains over a four-year period. As a result, the proposal would eliminate nearly all long-distance train service by the end of the third year.

The bill places numerous restrictions on Amtrak management's discretion in running the Corporation—it even forbids Amtrak from using authorized funds for developing high-speed passenger train service. In short, Amtrak is to have no future. In addition, this bill also makes it clear that the Administration believes that labor is a large part of Amtrak's problem. The bill requires that Amtrak negotiate substantial operating cost reductions with its employees as the price of receiving its Federal operating grant.

The Administration is apparently placing its trust in the magic of privatization and decentralization to solve Amtrak's problems. These changes were at the heart of the ARC proposals. Those proposals missed the point when they were advanced more than 1½